

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAJ-01 DOTE-00

NIC-01 /085 W

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R 061429Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6954

INFO USDA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PURCHASE OF 100 MT OF CORN

REF: STATE 26680

PARIS FOR PARSKY

1. FEB 6 ECON COUNSELOR INFORMED SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE
MINISTER GORDEYEV OF APPROVAL SOVIET CORN PURCHASE DESCRIBED
REFTEL, EMPHASIZING AS INSTRUCTED USG CONCERN ABOUT TIMELY
RECEIPT OF INFORMATION ON FUTURE SOVIET PURCHASES. GORDEYEV
INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD CONCERN AND SAID HE FELT COOK PERHAPS
HAD NOT EXPLAINED SITUATION COMPLETELY. ACCORDING TO GORDEYEV,
SOVIETS ARE CANCELLING ORDERS FOR 200,000 MT WHEAT IN EXCHANGE
FOR 200,000 MT CORN KTWO ORDERS OF 100,000 MT EACH) FOR DELIVERY
IN NOVEMBER 1975, NOT OCTOBER AS NOTED REFTEL. GORDEYEV COMMENTED
THAT HE SUSPECTS SOME OF EARLIER MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT SOVIET
GRAIN PURCHASE PLANS MAY RESULT FROM COMPANY INTEREST IN KEEPING
ORDERS UNDER COVER UNTIL CONTRACTS ALREADY NEARLY COMPLETE FOR
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PURPOSE OF OBTAINING COMMODITIES INVOLVED AT BEST POSSIBLE PRICE.

2. GORDEYEV ALSO BROUGHT UP SOVIET COMPLAINT THAT MANY SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN WHEAT REACH ODESSA STILL CONTAMINATED BY PRESERVATIVES APPLIED DURING STORAGE IN US ELEVATORS AND ALSO BY INSECTS SOVIETS HAVE NEARLY SUCCEEDED IN ERADICAING FROM DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE. HE SAID PROBLEM BECOMES ESPECIALLY ACUTE IN THE WINTER, WHEN SOVIETS CAN NOT CONVENTIENTLY FUMIGATE SHIPS BEFORE UNLOADING. AMONG AWKWARD PROBLEMS THIS SITUATION CAUSES, IN GORDEYEV'S WORDS, IS "CONGESTION IN PORT AS OTHER INCOMING SHIPS MUST WAIT TO USE PORT FACILITIES TIED UP BY SHIPS UNDERGOING FUMIGATION PROCESS."

3. AG ATTACHE ALSO ADVISED BY PERSHIN, PRESIDENT EXPORTKHLEB THAT THE QUANTITY OF CORN INVOLVED IN EXCHANGE FOR WHEAT WAS 200.000 MT, AND THAT THERE WAS NO PRICE GAIN IN THE EXCHANGE. ACCORDING TO PERSHIN, THE SOVIET UNION HAS AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WHEAT WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE INTEREST IN CORN IS TO MEET ACCELERATED USE FOR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FEED.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD CONTAMINATION, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, CORN, WHEAT, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW01679
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: 1
Film Number: D750044-0354
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750267/aaaachvg.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 26680
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PURCHASE OF 100 MT OF CORN
TAGS: EAGR, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006